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THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

ACTION

11 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER
FROM: FRANK CHAPIN *Fmc*
SUBJECT: Letter to Dr. Low Reporting
40 Committee Decisions on Air
Survey Program

Attached at Tab A is a letter for your signature to Dr. George M. Low, Acting Administrator of NASA, reporting the decisions of the 40 Committee on the proposed utilization of the U-2 in an earth resources survey testing program.

This is in response to Dr. Low's March 4 letter to you which is at Tab B.

Bob Behr and I recommend that you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments
Tabs A and B

Concur:

Bob Behr *RB*

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MAR 15 1971

Dear George:

I appreciate your letter of March 4 outlining NASA's long range and short term planning in the acquisition of earth resources survey data.

At the 40 Committee meeting on March 10, the political, intelligence and security implications of utilizing the U-2 aircraft for earth resources survey missions were discussed.

The Committee was unanimous in its view that there is no objection to using the U-2 in an earth resources testing program within the continental United States.

It was also agreed that there should be no suggestion to or discussion with representatives of foreign countries about the possible use of the U-2 aircraft for earth resources survey purposes abroad until experimental testing within the U.S. is completed and the results analyzed. Should it appear desirable upon completion of domestic testing to discuss with foreign governments the question of earth resources surveys abroad using the U-2 or other intelligence-related aircraft, the matter should again be referred to the 40 Committee before such action is taken.

The 40 Committee did not address itself to the question of which governmental component shall operate the proposed earth resources testing program within the United States.

Warm regards,

(Signed) HENRY A. KISSINGER

Henry A. Kissinger

Dr. George M. Low
Acting Administrator
National Aeronautics
and Space Administration
Washington, D.C. 20546

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

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OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

MAR 4 1971

Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Kissinger:

The NASA Earth Resources Technology Satellite is scheduled for launch early in 1972 and Skylab, carrying a major complement of earth resources instrumentation, in early 1973. In order to prepare the many users and investigators of space-acquired earth survey data for the task of interpretation and analyses thereof, NASA has proposed an intense R&D simulation program based on the repetitive use of U-2 aircraft on loan from the Air Force over three major test site regions in the Continental US. We outlined this program in our memorandum of January 7, 1971 to you, Ed David, George Shultz, and Bill Anders.

We have since learned that an earlier proposal from Ed David, suggesting the civil use of reconnaissance aircraft internationally, was before the 40 Committee for review. It seems that the NASA proposal and OST's were felt to be related, and that no action could be taken by NASA until the Committee had considered the international policy and security issues involved.

We feel that the two proposals — NASA's and OST's — are quite separable. We have agreement from the NRO, the CIA, the Air Force, OST, and the Department of State on our domestic R&D simulation program. We have established procedures and security ground rules to assure that there is no adverse impact on the ongoing operational U-2 programs. We have developed, in conjunction with the NRO and State, a complete public information plan covering NASA's acquisition and domestic operation of two U-2 aircraft as part of our experimental earth survey program.

In light of the above, we urge that the NASA proposal be approved; if it is necessary that the 40 Committee review it, we urge that our proposal be considered independently and on its merits and not in relation to the OST initiative.

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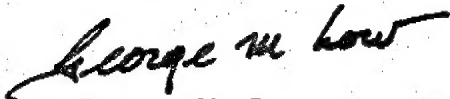
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We would appreciate an early response, since we want to get as much simulation experience as possible prior to the spaceflights next year.

Sincerely,



George M. Low
Acting Administrator

cc: Mr. Frank M. Chapin
NSC/EOB

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